



Hi <<First Name>>,

Happy New Year! As we make resolutions and plans for 2023, it is important to reflect on everything we accomplished in 2022. That is why I wanted to highlight some legislative achievements made toward the end of last year. The Governor signed into law several bills that I co-sponsored that boost our state's economy, expanding access to health care and paid family leave, enshrine hard-fought rights and combat the effects of climate change. I have also included some helpful resources for residents interested in learning more about our new Assembly district and those who may benefit from New York State's Excelsior Scholarship.

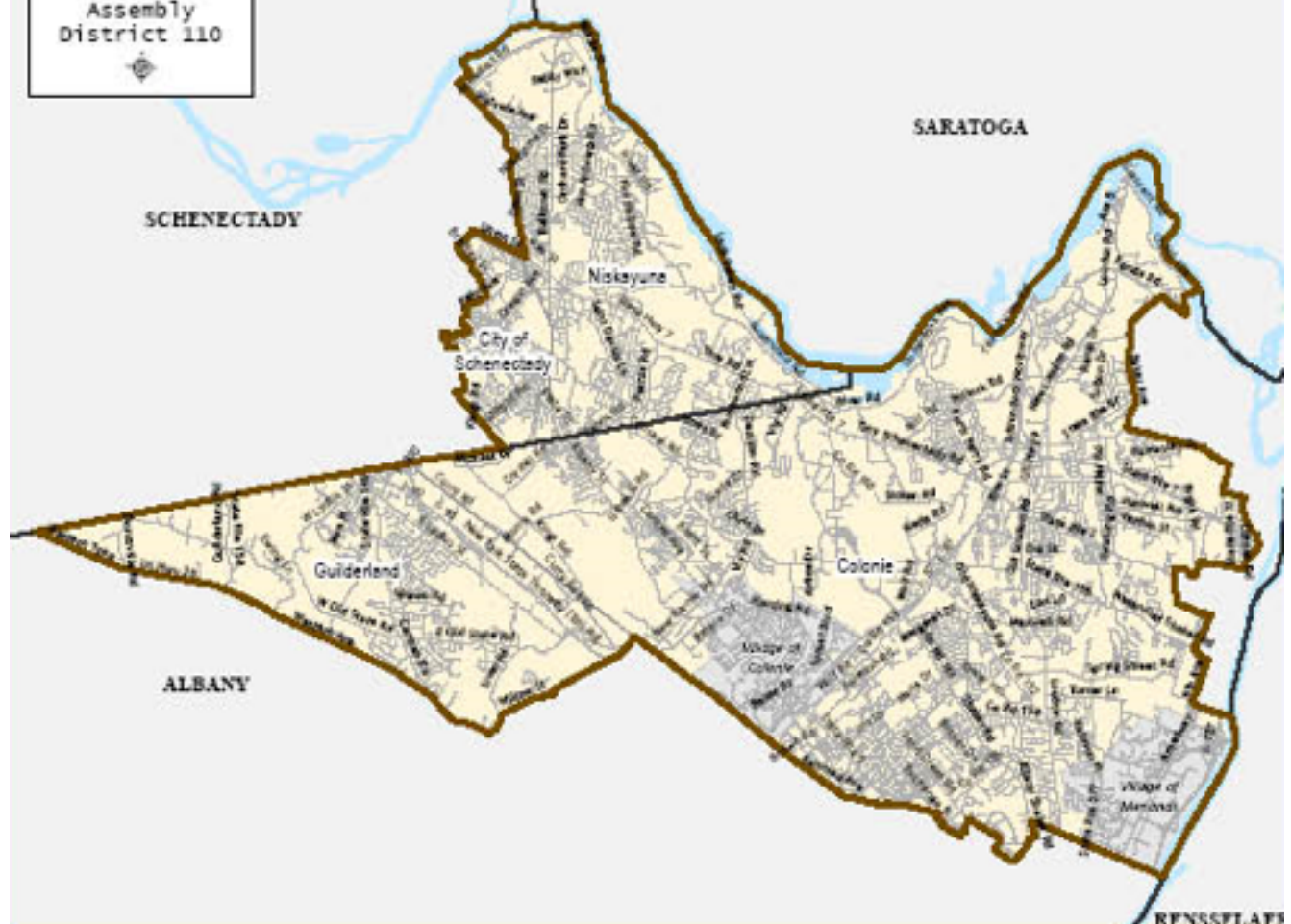
If you have questions or concerns about any community issue, reach out to my office at 518-377-0902 or SteckP@nyassembly.gov.

All the best,
Phil Steck

New District

New York State 110th Assembly District

This is the first legislative cycle under our new district. As part of the change, Assembly District 110 now encompasses parts of the town of Guelderland. I welcome these new residents to our district and I'm excited to continue to work hard for you all. However, due to recent court challenges, the redistricting process is still ongoing. The district lines may change again for the 2024 legislative cycle.



Legislative Updates

Voted NO on Legislative Pay Raise

Late last year, New York leaders voiced support for raising the taxpayer-funded salary of lawmakers and to put a cap on outside income. We should not have a citizen legislator, but a professional one. This will accomplish nothing but to devalue being a legislator and to create a class of professional politicians. I voted NO on the legislative pay raise and the inability for legislators to maintain additional employment.

Due Process for All Candidates for Public Office

My bill to establish statewide uniformity for objections to candidate nominating petitions has been signed into law (Ch. 744 of 2022). Previously, state law allowed each county board of elections to establish its own rules for the filing and disposition of petitions, certificates, objections, and specifications. The law that I helped pass provides due process for all candidates for public office.

Increasing Minimum Wage

High inflation continues to squeeze household budgets for working families, but for many New Yorker's good news came at the end of the year. On Dec. 31, the state's minimum wage in upstate communities increased from \$13.20 per hour to \$14.20, an increase of 7.5%. However, I firmly believe we need to further increase the minimum wage to attract people to work. People don't want to work because they see the returns for doing it aren't that great. We need to make work more attractive and increasing the minimum wage even further will help to do just that.

New York State Climate Action Council

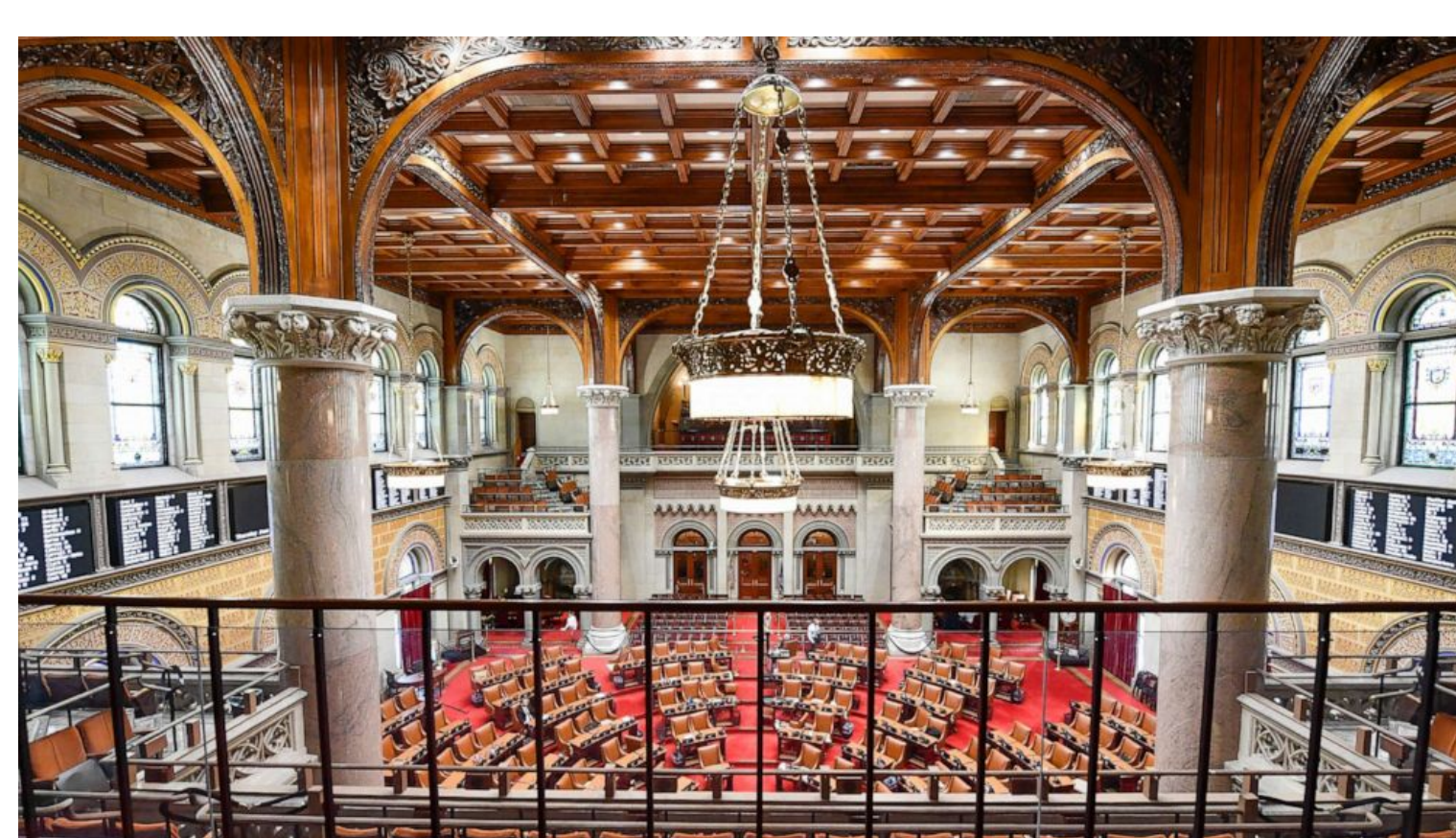
On Dec. 19, the New York State Climate Action Council approved its Scoping Plan. The next step in the process will provide the framework for how New York will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-zero status, increase renewable energy use, and ensure equity among all communities in the clean energy transition.

Respect for Marriage Act

On the federal level, an important milestone was reached with the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act. Only a decade ago, same-sex marriage was considered divisive and controversial across the political spectrum. Since then, support for same-sex marriage has grown exponentially in America, with polls showing that more than [70% of voters are now in favor](#). By guaranteeing federal protections for same-sex and interracial marriages, the Respect for Marriage Act represents an important step forward for our nation.

Additional Laws Taking Effect

- Expanded paid family leave to allow workers to take time off for siblings, whether biological or adopted, as well as half- and stepsiblings, with serious health conditions (Ch. 550 of 2021). I supported this law because siblings can often be the sole caretakers for their family members.
- Requiring private health insurers to cover abortion services without issuing prohibitive co-pays to patients seeking medical care (Ch. 57 of 2022).
- Prohibiting health care insurers that provide Affordable Care Act essential benefits from eliminating coverage for any prescription drugs during the plan year (Ch. 780 of 2021).



In the Community

Proud to Assist a Navy Veteran

This week, I was thrilled to help George T. Jenkins, a 100-year-old Navy veteran of WWII who earned three medals, receive his first government issued photo identification card. Unfortunately, Mr. Jenkins was not issued a birth certificate in 1922, a common scenario for African-Americans born in the United States during the 1920's. Recently, due to the bureaucratic red-tape Mr. Jenkins had difficulty obtaining a photo ID, thereby preventing him from moving into a senior housing complex. With the help of our office and the DMV, Mr. Jenkins now has his first ever government issued ID card and is living comfortably in the same complex as his daughters.



Students at the Capitol

I had the pleasure of giving the Woodland Hill Montessori School a behind-the-scenes look at our Capitol. I had a wonderful time answering great questions from these very inquisitive students.



Governor Kathy Hochul's Inauguration

Kathy Hochul made history by becoming the first woman elected governor of New York. She was recently sworn into office for a full-term and vowed to tackle crime and housing affordability in the state. Gov. Hochul is an inspiration to young women across the state and will continue to guide New York toward a bright future.



Tips & Information

NYS Excelsior Scholarship Program

Applications are now open for the NYS Excelsior Scholarship Program and are due by February 9, 2023. The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student tuition aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free. For the 2022-23 academic year, families who earned \$125,000 or less in the tax year 2020 are eligible to apply. For eligibility information and to apply, click [here](#).

NYS Independent Redistricting Commission 2023 Public Hearings

The New York State Independent Redistricting Commission will hold a series of 12 public hearings across the state to receive feedback on its draft redistricting plan for court-ordered New York State Assembly districts. The Albany meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 5 p.m. at the University of Albany's Page Hall, located at its downtown campus at 135 Western Ave., Albany. Click [here](#) for more information.

